

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02 /024 W

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R 261006Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

SECSTATE WASHDC 4669

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC BEXP SN TH

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: SINGAPORE WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION
NETWORK EXPANSION

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 1796, (B) STATE 92158, (C) BANGKOK 9012

1. LOCAL REGIONAL OFFICE OF AMERICAN ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FIRM, ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC. (ECI), HAS RECEIVED BRIEF REPORT FROM ITS HOME OFFICE THAT SINGAPORE IS PLANNING A MAJOR EXPANSION OF ITS WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, TO COST \$95.5 MILLION (PRESUMABLY US\$) OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. ASKS IF EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE IT WITH AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL DETAILS ASAP. WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND REPORT ON PROJECT AND WOULD APPRECIATE SINGAPORE'S ASSISTANCE, AS PER REFTEL (A).

2. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY REFTEL (B) WHICH STATES DEPARTMENT WOULD PREFER PASS MAJOR PROJECT INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO ENGINEERING FIRMS' U.S. HEADQUARTERS RATHER THAN THEIR OVERSEAS OFFICES AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES. EMBASSY'S REQUEST IN PARA THREE REFTEL (C) WAS DIRECTED TO SINGAPORE, AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO SUGGEST DEPARTMENT NOTIFY OVERSEAS OFFICES. WE TRUST REFTEL (B) WAS NOT INTENDED TO PRECLUDE POSTS IN THE FIELD FROM SHARING EARLY WARNING AND MAJOR PROJECT INFORMATION WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE POSTS IN THE REGION, IN ADDITION TO REPORTING IT TO DEPARTMENT.

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LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. ENGINEERING FIRMS SAY THEY

APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PASSING INFO THEIR HOME OFFICES,
BUT THAT THEIR ALSO RECEIVING EARLY WARNING DIRECTLY
CAN SAVE THEM VALUABLE TIME. ECI STRESSED IMPORTANCE
OF GETTING EVEN SLIGHT JUMP ON EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE
COMPETITORS. DE LEUW CATHER REP SAID THAT BECAUSE OF
EXTRA STEPS AND TRANSMITTAL TIME, GETTING INFORMATION
THROUGH HOME OFFICE NORMALLY TAKES ABOUT TWO WEEKS LONGER
THAN GETTING IT DIRECTLY FROM WITHIN THE REGION. DEPART-
MENT'S COMMENTS WOULD BE WELCOMED.
WHITEHOUSE

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To: SINGAPORE
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